

Message Text

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63

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 INT-05 COME-00

CIEP-01 /074 W

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R 030214Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1975

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LA, EMIN

SUBJECT: MINERAL RESOURCES, XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE

REF: VIENTIANE 7574

1. AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD BY SISOUK DECEMBER 31 THAT REF REPORT WOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CABINET IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE EXPLOITATION OF LAO IRON ORE DEPOSITS WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO TOKYO. HE SAID THAT NIPPON STEEL WAS MOST INTERESTED AND THAT HE EXPECTED VARIOUS JAPANESE FIRMS TO UNDERTAKE SERIOUS STUDIES OF THE LAO IRON ORE POTENTIAL.

FOR TOKYO. REFERENCE REPORT IS A THOROUGH BUT PRE-LIMINARY STUDY OF MINERAL DEPOSITS, PRINCIPALLY IRON ORE, IN THE MOUNTAINS NORTH OF VIENTIANE. THE STUDY OF IRON ORE DEPOSITS COVERED AN AREA OF 240 SQUARE KILOMETERS, DESCRIBED IN THE REPORT AS THE "DRAGON FIELD". IT IS SOME 15 KM. SOUTH OF LONG TIENG, AND IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOCATED BETWEEN THE LATITUDES OF 18 DEGREES 56 MINUTES

AND 19 DEGREES 04 MINUTES NORTH, AND LONGITUDES 102 DEGREES 53 MINUTES AND 103 DEGREES AND 02 MINUTES EAST. TWENTY-FOUR ORE BODIES IN THE AREA OF INVESTIGATION ARE GROUPED INTO EIGHT IRON DEPOSITS RANGING IN AVERAGE FE CONTENT OF FROM 64.77 PERCENT FE TO 68.23 PERCENT FE. THE TOTAL PROBABLE ORE RESERVE OF THE INVESTIGATED AREAS OF THE DRAGON FIELD IS 53.6 MILLION METRIC TONS. UNINVESTIGATED AREAS IN THE DRAGON FIELD ARE STATED IN THE REPORT TO HAVE A POTENTIAL RESERVE OF ABOUT 360 MILLION METRIC TONS.

SOME OTHER MINERAL DEPOSITS WERE INVESTIGATED ALONG WITH THE PRINCIPLE FOCUS ON IRON ORE. THE REPORT STATES THAT OF THE OTHER MINERALS INVESTIGATED, ONLY SOME LEAD-ZINC AND MANGANESE DEPOSITS DESERVE ANY FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

FOR AID/W. WE WILL ADVISE WHEN REPORT HAS BEEN MADE PUBLIC HERE IN ORDER TO PERMIT YOU TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO U.S. MINING COMPANIES.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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